Adversary Case Opening For Attorneys

Opening an Adversary proceeding involves entering the necessary information regarding the plaintiff, defendant, and basic statistical data. The complaint is incorporated into this process and will not need to be docketed separately. During the filing of this event (unlike the opening of a Bankruptcy Case), the attorney for the plaintiff must select himself/herself on the "Plaintiff Information" screen. (Refer to Step 7, page 5). The adversary cover sheet <u>must</u> be an attachment or part of the complaint pdf.

STEP 1 Click the Adversary hyperlink on the CM/ECF main menu bar.



STEP 2 Click on the Open an AP Case hyperlink displayed on the ADVERSARY EVENTS screen.



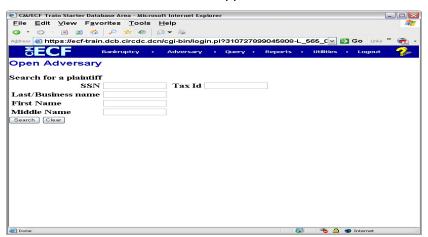
STEP 3 The CASE DATA screen displays.



The case number will be generated at the end of this process. Make sure you take note of it on the final screen.

- The current date is displayed next to **Date Filed**.
- The Case Type value is ap for adversary proceeding. There is no other selection.
- The Complaint field signifies the lead event for this proceeding. If you are filing something other than a complaint such as a Notice of Removal, select (n) for no.
- Click [Next].

STEP 4 The PLAINTIFF SEARCH screen appears.



• Enter the last name of the plaintiff to be searched. If this is a business filing, enter the first word of the name to search the database. The entire business name is stored in the **Last/Business name** field. The field size is 200 characters.

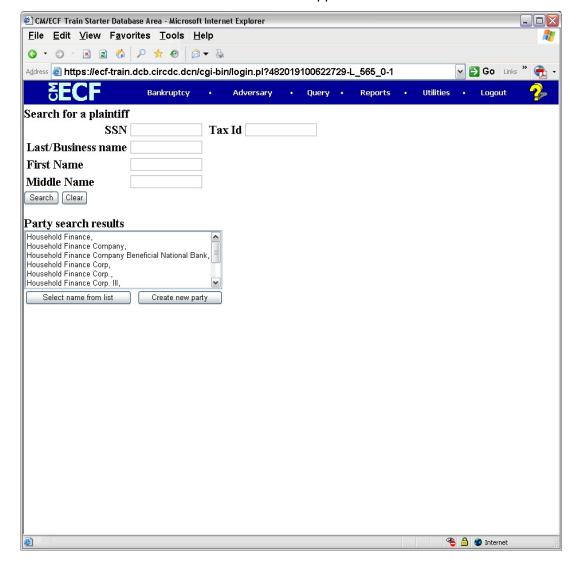
Search Hints:

- Enter one field of data for each search.
- Format Social Security Number or Tax ID with hyphens.
- Include punctuation. (O'Brien, Zeta-Jones)
- Try alternate search clues if your first search is not successful.
- Partial names (minimum of two characters) can be entered.
- Wild cards (*) are not required at the end of search strings.
- Wild cards may be used before or within search strings. (*son, Gr?y)
- Do not search only by the asterisk * itself.

NOTE:

Do not use the asterisk * by itself as search criteria. If just the asterisk is used, the entire database will be searched and require unnecessary systems resources and may degrade the response time.

STEP 5 The **SEARCH RESULTS** screen appears.



NOTE:

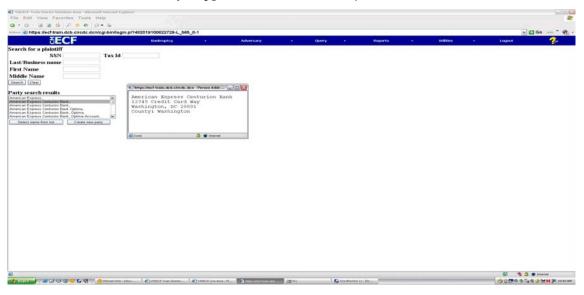
If the designated party is already in the database, the Party Search Results screen would provide a listing of parties matching your search criteria. In that situation you would select the party by highlighting the name with your mouse and clicking on the **[Select Name From List]** button.

If your party is not on the list, click the [Create New Party] button.

NOTE:

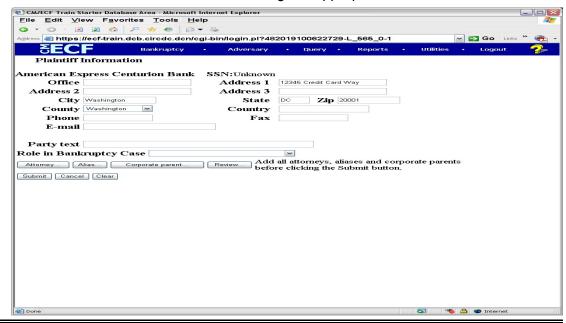
Your name search may find more than one record having the same name (as shown above). Clicking on each of the names will display a window showing the party's address information for verification.

If none of the addresses are correct for this party, you can either 1) modify the address (for this case only) on the following PLAINTIFF INFORMATION screen, or 2) click on the [Create new party] button to add a new person record with this address.



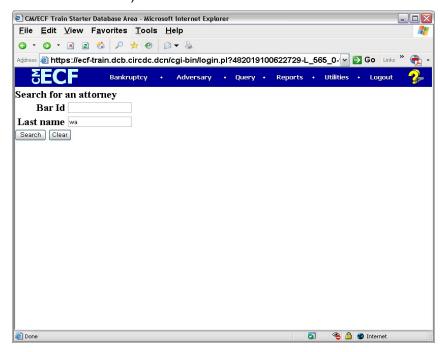
STEP 6 The PLAINTIFF INFORMATION screen appears.

• Expand the **Role in Bankruptcy Case** selection pick list by clicking on the down arrow and making the appropriate selection.



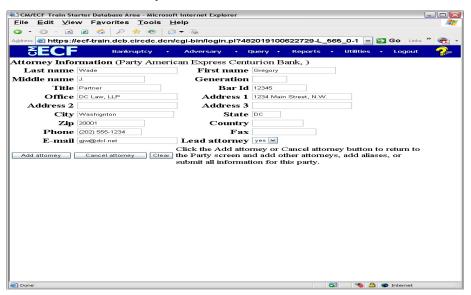
- The Party Text field is used for further party description, such as A
 California Corporation or Executor for the Estate of.... This information
 will appear on the caption of the docket report immediately after the
 party's name.
- Click on the [Attorney] button on the PLAINTIFF INFORMATION screen (above).
- **STEP 7** For adversary openings **ONLY**, you will need to add yourself as the attorney representing the plaintiff(s). Steps 7 9 will show you how.
 - Your attorney record already exists on the court's database in an attorney roll that is maintained by court staff.

The **ATTORNEY SEARCH** screen allows you to retrieve your attorney record by either State Bar ID or Last Name (or partial Last Name.)

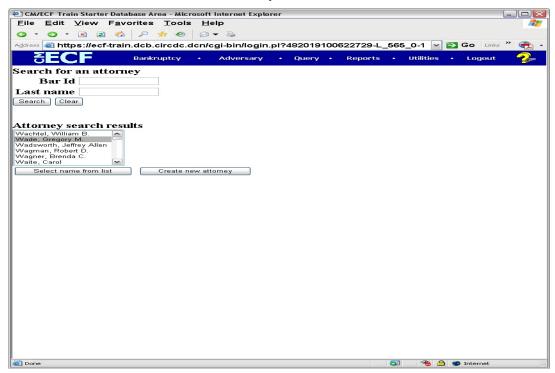


- This screen shot illustrates how you could search for the attorney Gregory Wade. The search clue entered in the Last name field is the first two letters (minimum required) of his last name.
- Click on [Search].

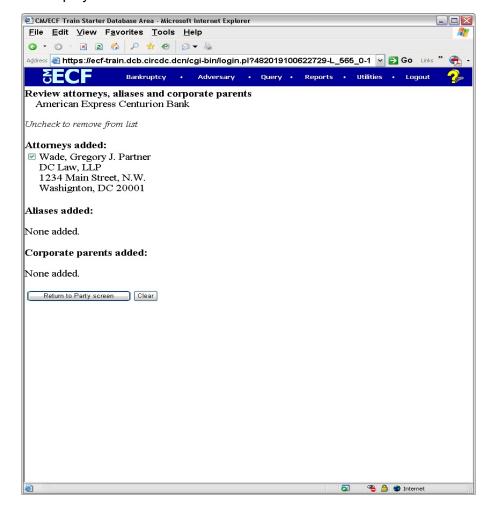
The **ATTORNEY SEARCH RESULTS** screen will display all the matches for the search clue you entered.



- Highlight your name with your mouse and click on [Select Name From List].
- The **ATTORNEY INFORMATION** screen displays the master attorney record from the court attorney roll.

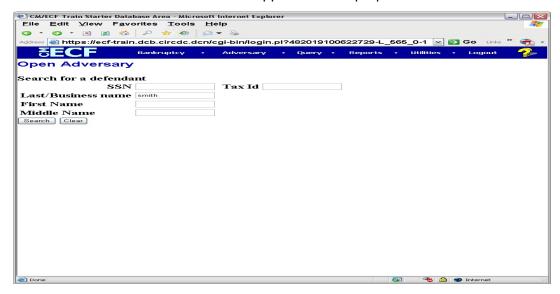


- Your attorney record can accommodate only one address. If the address for this case is different, make the changes to this screen. This will change professional and mailing information **FOR THIS CASE ONLY**.
- After verifying this information, click [Add Attorney] to associate this record with your plaintiff.
- The main **PLAINTIFF INFORMATION** screen appears again. At this time
 you can click on the **[Review]** button to verify attorney and alias
 information for this party. The figure below shows how this information is
 displayed.

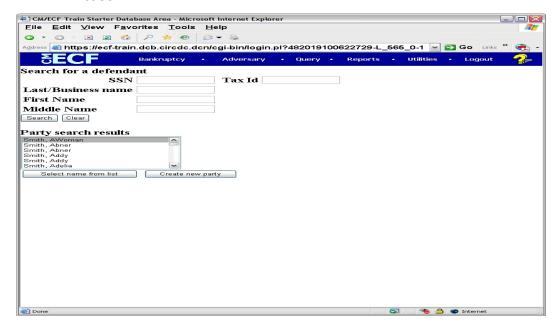


- Click on [Return to Party screen].
- When the Plaintiff Information screen appears again, click [Submit]

You have added the plaintiff. If there are no more plaintiffs, then click [End plaintiff selection] and add the defendant(s). The SEARCH FOR A DEFENDANT screen will appear for that purpose.

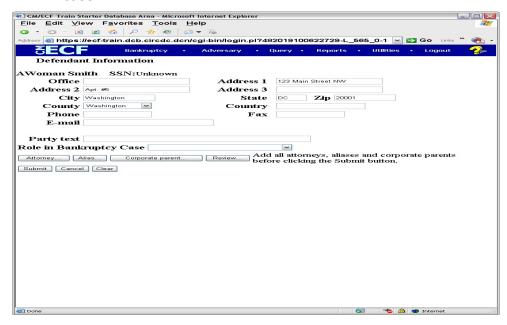


- Enter party information for the defendant Awoman Smith. Search by last name.
- STEP 11 When the SEARCH RESULTS screen appears, the party will be displayed because Awoman Smith is already a debtor in the bankruptcy case.

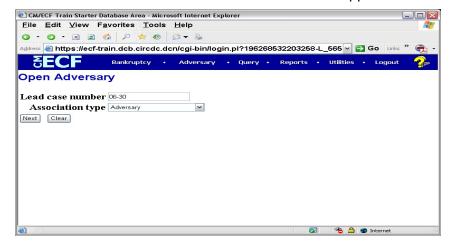


Highlight the name and click on [Select name from list].

The **DEFENDANT INFORMATION** screen appears next with this party's data and address as it is recorded in the database from the bankruptcy case.



- If you don't know who the attorney for the defendant is, do not change the default address. You must select the **Role in Bankruptcy Case** by clicking on the down arrow for the role field. Make the appropriate selection and click on **[Submit]**. To add the defendant's attorney information repeat steps 7 9.
- The Defendant Search screen will reappear. If there are additional defendants, then complete steps 10-12 again. When all defendants have been entered, click on [End defendant selection].
- STEP 13 The LEAD CASE/ASSOCIATION TYPE screen appears.



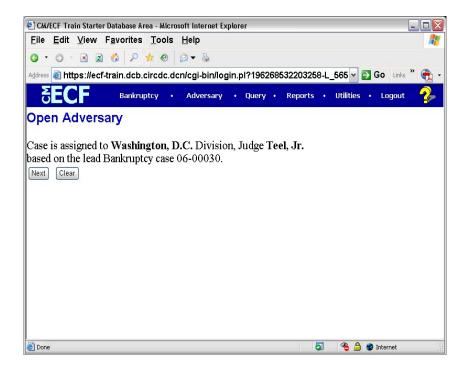
 Enter the Lead Bankruptcy Case Number in yy-nnnnn format, including the hyphen.

NOTE:

If the case number is invalid or if the lead case does not reside on this database, an error message, "YY-NNNNN is not a valid case. Please enter a valid value." is generated. You will not be able to proceed with the case opening process. Research the reason for the error.

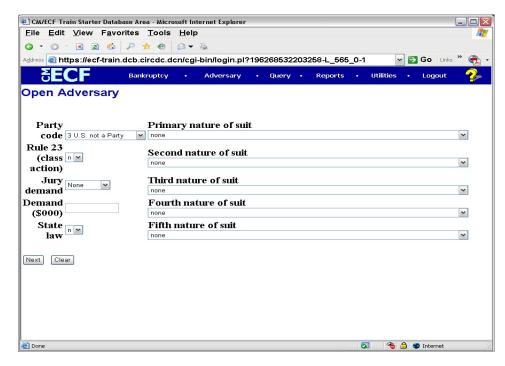
Though inappropriate, If you **do not** enter any number in the **Lead Case Number** field the system **will** allow you to proceed with case opening.

- The Association type defaults to Adversary. Other selections are Consolidated, Jointly Administered, and Related. Leave the default as is and click [Next].
- STEP 14 The CASE ASSIGNMENT screen displays. Case assignment is based on the lead Bankruptcy case.



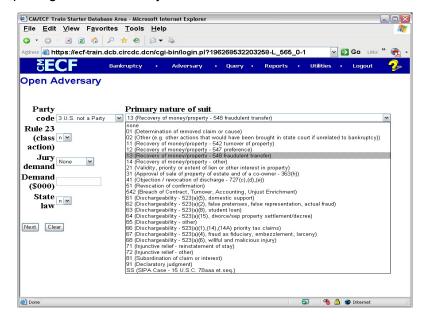
Click [Next].





Unless the US is a plaintiff or defendant in your case, accept the default **US not a Party**.

• For this exercise select **13** (**Recover Money/Property - 548 fraudulent transfer**) as the Primary Nature of Suit of the complaint from the list below. Up to five "Nature of Suit" selections can be made during the opening of an adversary case.

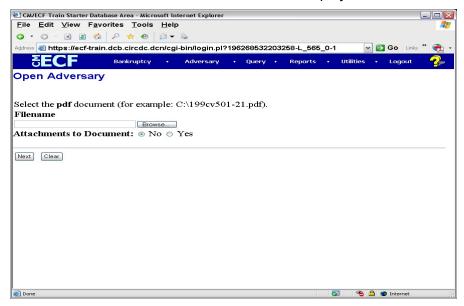


 For multiple suits, start with your lead cause of action. Up to five may be entered.

NOTE: If there are multiple suites and one is a 727 Objection to Discharge, it is important to enter #41 as the Nature of Suite.

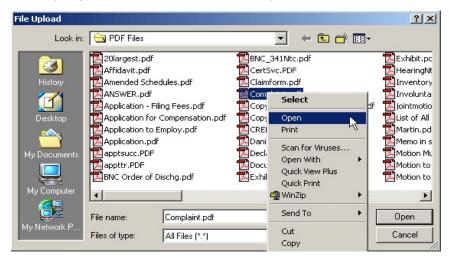
- The default in the **Rule 23 (Class Action)** box is *n*. Change the default to **y** only if this is a Class Action suit.
- The default in the Jury Demand box is None.
- For the case in this example, we will leave the default of **None**.
- **Demand.** If there is a dollar demand, enter the amount in thousands to the nearest thousand. For example, if the Dollar Demand is \$4550, \$5,000, or \$5499, you would enter 5 for \$5000, leaving off the 000. Since our Nature of Suit is Recover Money/Property we will enter **29** for \$29,000.00.
- Verify the data on your screen and then click [Next].

STEP 16 The PDF DOCUMENT SELECTION screen displays.

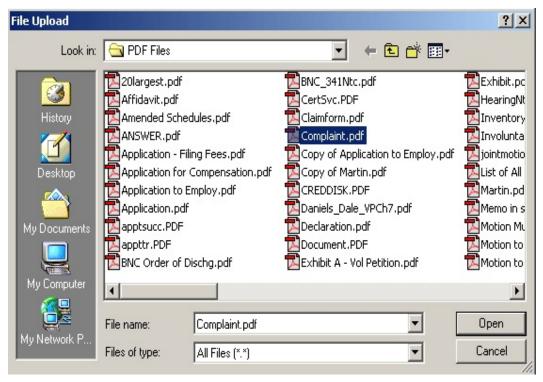


- To associate the imaged document with this entry, select the PDF filename of the complaint you are filing.
- Click [Browse]. In the File Upload screen change Files of type: to All files(*.*) then navigate to the directory where the appropriate PDF file is located and select it with your mouse.

 To make certain you are about to associate the correct PDF file for this entry, right click on the filename with your mouse and select **Open**.



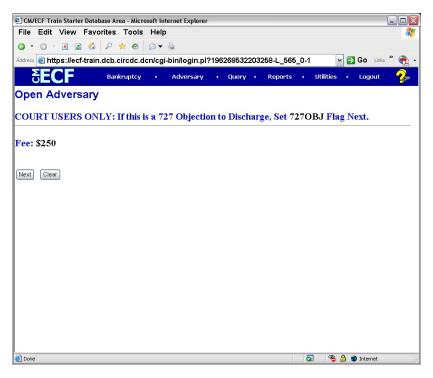
- This will launch the Adobe Acrobat Reader to display the contents of the imaged document. Verify that the document is correct.
- Close or minimize the Adobe application and if that is the correct file, click **[Open]** on the File Upload dialogue box.



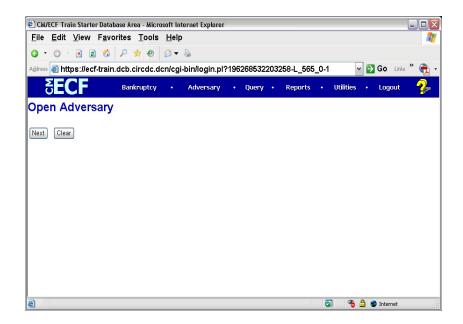
The **PDF DOCUMENT SELECTION** screen appears with the path and PDF document in the **Filename** box.



- If not part of the complaint pdf, then the adversary cover sheet should be attached at this time. In this exercise, however, there will be no attachments. Attachments will be covered in another lesson. Therefore, leave the radio button indicating No.
- Click [Next] to continue.
- The **FILING FEE** confirmation screen will display the complaint fee information.
 - NOTE: You may see a displayed message such as the one below for COURT USERS ONLY: Disregard this message.



- The Fee Amount defaults to the amount of the complaint filing fee as of February 2007, \$250.00.
- Click [Next] to continue. At the screen below hit [Next] again.



STEP 18 The FINAL DOCKET TEXT screen displays.



- Proof this screen carefully! No further editing in the case opening process is allowed after this screen. If Docket Text is correct, click [Next].
- If any part of it is incorrect, click the browser [Back] button to return to the screen you need to correct. Then process the screens again with the respective [Next] or [Submit] buttons.

NOTE:

When an adversary case is opened, the complaint information is spread over to the main bankruptcy case.

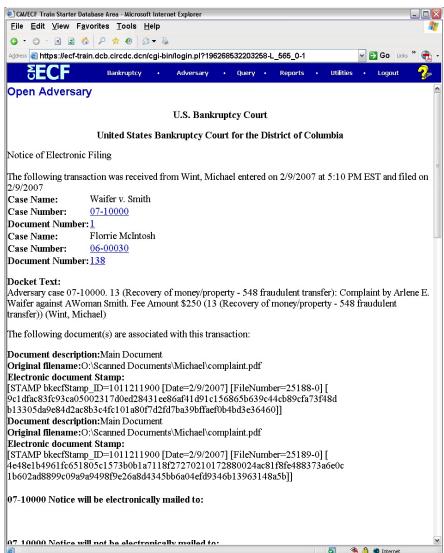
The case number does *not* appear in the docket text.

When the judgment is rendered, the ruling will also spread over to the main bankruptcy case.

NOTE:

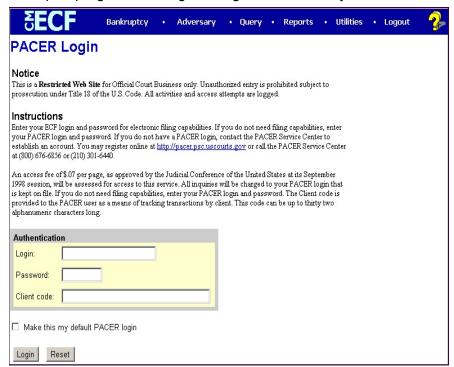
To abort or restart the transaction at any time up until the final docket text screen, click the **Adversary** hyperlink on the **Menu Bar**.



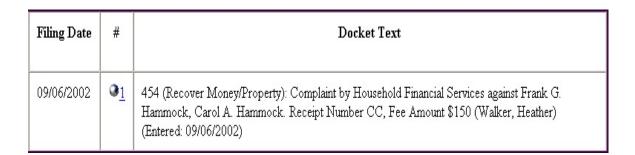


- The Notice of Electronic Filing is the verification that the filing has been sent electronically to the court's database. It certifies that this is now an official court document.
- The case number is a hyperlink to the docket sheet and the document number is a hyperlink to the PDF document image. Clicking on either of these links will bring up the PACER login screen (see figure below). The case number of both this adversary and the lead bankruptcy case appear. This indicates that this complaint entry has spread to the bankruptcy case and will be available to anyone reviewing the Bankruptcy Docket report. The hyperlink to the imaged PDF complaint is also accessible from the bankruptcy case.

- To print a copy of this notice, click the browser [Print] icon.
- To save a copy of this notice, click [File] on the browser menu.
- Trustee and Attorney users will have access to the Notice of Electronic
 Filing at the time of their filing. Subsequent access to any Query or
 Report programs must go through the PACER system.



• Further access to the **Notice of Electronic Filing** is available though the electronic docket report. When this option is selected, a bullet appears next to the document number of the event on the docket report.



 Clicking on this bullet will display a copy of this notice. Attorney users will be presented with a PACER login screen first. When a copy of the Notice of Electronic Filing is mailed to each subscriber on the case, the following message will display at the top:

NOTE TO PUBLIC ACCESS USERS

You may view the filed documents once without charge. To avoid later charges, download a copy of each document during this first viewing.